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beans, potatoes, wool, leather, and industrial crops. Authority is given to the President of the Council for Commerce in the federal government to designate other agricultural products which would be purchased at tied prices. Under this provision, he has already designated fish. The regulations provide further for the crop purchase of wine and apples and some other agricultural products at tied prices in specified areas.

The plan for trade in industrial and other goods to supply rural areas at tied prices showed an increase of 35 percent over the 1949 plan, or 31.4 percent of the actual trade in 1949. Thus the government is allocating more goods for commerce at tied prices than in past years.

The rise in prices for industrial goods intended for tied commerce, averaging 10 to 15 percent, is linked to the price at which they were bought from the producers, as well as with the problem of maintaining a balance in the exchange of goods with the rural areas under the tied-price system.

The new regulations eliminate diversity in the system of pricing articles on the free market and give complete independence to production managers of enterprises to set the prices of articles on the free market according to demand, quality, and assortment. The new regulations eliminate the current system of higher commercial prices and lower individual prices for industrial goods in the free market, and establish a uniform system of prices for industrial goods in the free market. The most important articles for the living standard of the population such as tobacco, salt, matches, kerosene, school equipment, etc., are excluded from the system of free pricing of industrial goods in the free market. The old system of uniform prices for retail goods on the free market will apply to these.

By giving the authority to directors of enterprises and to commercial undertakings to set prices freely, the long wait for the fixing of uniform prices by state agencies is eliminated. Directors of enterprises have the authority to lower prices of articles which are slow to sell, thus reducing stockpiling of goods not in current demand.

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